

California GARDEN

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 1978

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Seventy-five Cents





FLORAL EVENTS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW PREMIERE

"White Christmas"
Thursday November 30, 1978

Christmas Carolers
Majorca Room 7:30 p.m.

Nov 2, 9, 16, 30

"THURSDAY WORKSHOPPERS"

San Diego Floral Asso. Garden Center, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Call Mrs. Louis Kulot for information—222-5480

Jan 9, 16, 23, Feb 6

FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES with Adrienne Green
Tuesday, Casa del Prado, Room 101, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
Call Mrs. Roland Hoyt for reservations—296-2757

SHOWS

Nov 19

SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS FALL SHOW—14th Annual Fall Show "IRIS FROLICS"
Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, 12:30 to 5:00 p.m., Free

Nov 25 & 26

SUMI PAINTING SHOW

Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Free

Dec 1, 2, 3

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS SHOW

Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Free

Dec 3

"CHRISTMAS IN FLOWERLAND" Bazaar at Quail Gardens

Ecke Family Building, Quail Botanical Gardens
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas, California, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Dec 9

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER, CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ANNUAL SALE

Patio A, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Due to rising costs, the price of CALIFORNIA GARDEN magazine is now seventy-five cents per copy. The subscription price is now \$4.00 per one year or \$7.50 for two years. There is no change of price for membership subscriptions.

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Mrs. David Westheim, President

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Robert O. Brooks



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I used to love my garden,

But now my love is dead,

For I found a bachelor's button

In black-eyed Susan's bed.

—Anon.



THE POINSETTIA

by Bill Gunther

White gateposts with decorative lamps grace the front driveway into the Paul Ecke home and poinsettia ranch in Encinitas, California. This is the beautiful front entrance to the poinsettia capitol of the world. More than 100 full time employees pass through this gate daily, but the hundreds of thousands of poinsettia plants which are grown in the 20 acres of greenhouses on the property are distributed to wholesale growers only; there are no retail sales to the general public at this location.

OF ALL THE FAMILIES of flowering plants on this earth, the spurge family is one of the largest; it includes almost 300 genera. Of these many genera, the genus *Euphorbia* probably is the largest and most varied; it includes more than 1,600 species. The brilliantly decorative plant which we call the poinsettia is just one of those *Euphorbia* species. In botanic nomenclature, the poinsettia is *Euphorbia pulcherrima*. The showy red portion of the plant, popularly referred to as the flower, consists of modified leaves or bracts. While each individual leaf is correctly a bract, common usage has designated the entire showy portion as the bract or bracts.



While we now think of the poinsettia as being a symbol of Christmas, we should know that it was cultivated by the Aztecs in Mexico long before Christianity came to the Western Hemisphere. The plant, native to the area near present day Taxco, in Mexico, was called Cuétlaxochitl by the Aztecs. Because of its brilliant color, the flower was a symbol of purity. It was highly admired and prized by the famed King Moctezuma despite the fact that its climatic requirements prevented it from being grown in the area of the Aztec capital, now Mexico City.

In addition to its decorative value, the poinsettia also served the Aztecs in other ways. A reddish purple dye was made from the bracts. From the milky plant juice, or latex, a medicinal preparation was made. Primarily, this preparation was used to counteract fever.

During the seventeenth century, a group of Franciscan priests settled near Taxco. Because of its color and its holiday blooming time, they began to use the poinsettia in the Fiesta of Santa Pesebre, a nativity procession. This was the beginning of the association of poinsettia with the Christmas season.

Juan Balme, a botanist of the same period, mentioned the plant in his writings. He described it as having large green leaves, and a small flower surrounded by bracts, almost as if to protect it. The bracts, he said, turned a brilliant red. Balme found the plant flourishing also on the slopes and in the valleys near Cuernavaca.

Poinsettias were first introduced into the United States in 1825 by Joel Robert Poinsett. While serving as the first United States ambassador to Mexico, he had occasion to visit Taxco and found the flowers growing on the adjacent hillsides. Poinsett, a botanist of great ability, had some plants sent to his

Aztec's Cuétlaxochitl

home in Greenville, South Carolina. After supplying his own greenhouses, he distributed plants to some botanical gardens and to some horticultural friends, including John Bartram of Philadelphia. Bartram, in turn, supplied the plant to Robert Buist, a nurseryman, who first sold the plant as *Euphorbia poinsettia*. The botanical name had already been given by a German taxonomist in 1833 as *E. pulcherrima* Willd. ex Klotz. of the spurge family *Euphorbiaceae*. The name poinsettia, however, has remained the accepted common name in the English speaking countries.

In 1902, Albert Ecke, newly arrived in the United States via Switzerland, began farming in the Eagle Rock Valley, which is now a part of the city of

Upper: Paul Ecke himself, now 83 years young, in one of his greenhouses full of blooming poinsettias—Encinitas, Calif. USA

Lower: We asked Ray Winter, one of the officials of the Ecke organization, to stand beside one of the huge new patented white poinsettia varieties so that we could take a photo to show, by comparison, how very very large are its 'blossoms.'

Los Angeles. In 1906, he sold his farm and moved his family to Hollywood, and with the help of his two sons, Hans and Paul, he began raising field flowers, including poinsettias. At the time of Albert Ecke's death in 1919, his son Paul became serious about the poinsettia business. He and his family have made a career of selecting, developing, and distributing improved types of poinsettias throughout the world.

The Paul Ecke Poinsettia Ranch has its headquarters in Encinitas, California. From 1924 until 1963, most of the good greenhouse potted poinsettia plants were sports of an original seedling called 'Oak Leaf.' In 1963, a new type of poinsettia was introduced. 'Paul Mikkelsen' was the first of the new long-lasting cultivated varieties (cultivars). This cultivar literally revolutionized the poinsettia business in that it made poinsettias a practical plant for mass merchandising outlets because of its foliage retention capabilities.

In 1968, the 'Anette Hegg' cultivar of Norway was introduced to North America. This new type of poinsettia seemed to be tailor-made for the mass market outlet because of its extreme durability and the fact that it produces so many flowers.

Since then, leadership in the development of the poinsettia plant has been assumed by the Paul Ecke Poinsettia Ranch. The Ecke organization now grows over ten thousand new poinsettia seedlings every year. Each of these new seedlings is evaluated, after which about 99.9 percent of them are pulled up and discarded. Those seedlings which are selected for retention and propagation and possible introduction must exhibit better cold-tolerance and/or better foliage-retention capability and/or different coloring than any existing ones. By means of this selection process alone, the Ecke organization now has white, cream-colored, and variegated varieties. Commonly, folks think of poinsettias as Christmas flowers, but during recent years at the Southern California Exposition at Del Mar the Ecke organization has exhibited some of its patented new cultivars in full bloom—exactly six months away from the Christmas season.

But even while we are admiring these new poinsettias, which have been introduced during recent years, we should realize that every variety now existing, including those which are patented, is botanically speaking nothing more than a selected form of the single species *E. pulcherrima*. By contrast new cultivars of such plants as roses, irises, and daffodils,

which have been domesticated longer than poinsettias, have been developed through processes which involve hybridization between two or more species (for hybrid vigor and more differentiation) and conversion from diploid to tetraploid (for more intense color and for better substance of blossom).

Now that the poinsettia has really become established commercially, we can speculate that soon, inter-specific hybridization and other new developmental procedures will be applied to euphorbias just as they have been to many other cultivated decorative plants. We can assume that the Ecke organization will lead the way in this regard. And we can anticipate that when that happens, hybrid cultivars will be forthcoming soon thereafter with qualities which will skyrocket the poinsettia into far greater popularity that it already has achieved. □

Editor's note: Remember the correct pronunciation of poinsettia is poin-set'-ē-a.



A THANKSGIVING

by Alice M. Clark

FEW MAGAZINES IN THIS COUNTRY have been privileged to reach the "ripe old age" of *California Garden*—70 years. Since this is the season for counting our blessings, it seems appropriate for *California Garden* to broadcast its thankfulness to the long-time advertisers who have helped to make this progress possible.

Back in 1909, when the Floral Association began this publication, *A. D. Robinson*, of Rosecroft Gardens on Pt. Loma, was its editor. *Kate Sessions*, to whom we owe the original landscaping of Balboa Park, had a nursery in Mission Hills. They both "rooted" for us with their advertisements as well as articles for the magazine. They were joined by six banks, all kinds of garden shops and other stores, and the Gas & Electric Company. As one can see, we surely made a "flying start," even before the days of Charles Lindbergh.

Most of our early allies are gone, but some are still with us, like *George James*, who with his father, *F. W. James*, owned nurseries in Coronado and National City. Since *George* retired, he enlivens our issues with his time-perfected garden advice, instead of advertisements. He has never had a proper salute for his devotion. May this serve as a grateful, if belated one.

Alice Rainford, a protegee of *Miss Sessions*, was always the first to get a notice of her Rainford Flower Shop in each of our issues, for as long as she was active. Later she wrote delightful tales of earlier garden people. Before *Kate Sessions* left her Mission Hills Nursery, for her fourth and last one in Pacific Beach, *Frank Antonelli* had been her assistant. He became the new owner, and has recently wound up his fiftieth year with flying colors. His place has been the focus of gardening in Mission Hills. We are proud of him and we rejoice that he was, and is still one of our faithful backers.

This brings us to *Walter Andersen*, who served his apprenticeship with Rose Court Nursery, a familiar name on our early books. Soon *Walter* was on his own at Rosecrans Street. Later he established larger

holdings across from the Marine Base, on Enterprise, (the right name for his locale), where he is now celebrating his fiftieth year. He was clever enough to add *Ada Perry*, who was once our editor and writer, to his large staff. She also is one of the mentors on the garden page of the Sunday edition of the San Diego Union, a "must" for local plant lovers. For 33 years, *Walter* has aided our show exhibits, and placed his advertisements in our thirsty columns. In addition, he is educating the public at his nursery, twice a week, with free talks by recognized horticultural experts. We give him our sincere congratulations and our thanks for adding his impetus to the garden beauty of our city.

Twenty-seven years ago, the full-page advertisements of Hazard Bloc and Bric warmed our hearts, and became a strong base for our flowery pages. They are holding firm today, with the sustained story of their fine products. We are proud to have their name with ours all this time. Presidio Nursery entered their format with us in 1954. We have been pleased to watch their rapid expansion, which includes a fine Florist Shop. We are grateful for the continuation of those 24 years together. *Cory Hogewoning* has also carried his La Jolla Hillside Nursery name in our files, for 24 years. Now he has closed his gates, and we shall miss his friendly expert helpfulness and his corner on our page. The last name we shall mention as having been with us for over 20 years is Bennett's Garden Center in La Jolla. *Mrs. Bennett*, a dedicated garden enthusiast, was an understanding friend to all of her customers. We are grateful to have been associated with her, and happy that her successors are continuing that accord in the shop, and on our pages.

When our memory goes back to all those who have filled our spaces from the beginning, through the last 20 years, plus newer ones who are providing a hopeful future, we become very humble and truly thankful to everyone who has helped us carry on the dream of our founders for *California Garden*. □

Ed Note: Alice M. Clark, editor emeritus of *California Garden Magazine*, is in her golden years of contributing to this magazine as artist, advertising manager, editor, and author. Her latest achievement is the recent publication "Begonia Portraits," a book written and illustrated by Mrs. Clark.

In the Footsteps of Saint Paul

by Beverly A. Kulot



THE CLIMATE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN is very much like that of our southwestern United States. The same kinds of plants from palms to pines grow there as here. On my eighteen-day tour through the Holy Land, I traveled aboard ship from Corinth and the Greek Isles down the coast of Turkey to Israel on the Mediterranean Sea. The ancient hills are there, the mountains, the desert, the Jordan River, and the Sea of Galilee as they were in Biblical times. The trees, herbs, and the field flowers are all the same. They have renewed themselves in an unbroken cycle. War, plague, drought, and famine have flowed across in an endless procession, but nature overcomes all obstacles. The fields are filled with anise, thyme, coriander, dill, and rosemary. One feels this is their original home. The "bitter herbs" of the Old Testament—dandelion, chicory, and watercress—grow wild. Sage was considered a cure for any ailment; it was used in cooking and burned as incense in the temple. The seven-branched candlestick of the Jews is said to have been inspired by a branch of sage. The acanthus leaf furnished the design for the Corinthian columns of Greece.

The olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane are not those of Biblical days, but they are ancient. The flowering almond, valued for its beauty as well as its fruit, still serves mankind in the same way. The tamarisk, fig, pomegranate, cedar, and the date palm are all there. Of the 2,500 species of plants represented in Israel over 200 are mentioned in the Bible.

There are two seasons, wet and dry. The desert shall bloom again in this land of milk and honey and, indeed, it does. In Israel, as well as in several of the Arab states, it has become feasible to use a sea water conversion system in irrigating arid land. The cultivated lands are extensive. Barley, wheat, lentils, grapes are all here under cultivation. There are 70 references to "the fruitful vine" in the Bible. Barley, being cheaper than wheat, became a symbol of poverty and was made into loaves and distributed to the multitudes. It was lentil pottage for which Esau sold his birthright.

Someone in my group said, "The fields are full of poppies!" I walked over and looked; they were anemones! They were all colors, but mostly red. The anemone is said to be the "lily of the field." The "lily which casts forth its roots as Lebanon" is thought to be the yellow iris bordering the streams and ponds. There are many references to roses in the



A high point in my trip was wandering through fields of pale pink asphodel. Even the name charms me. Upon close inspection the individual flower is not spectacular, but a field of them is heavenly. The cyclamen and snapdragon grow wild in Israel. The flax flower is there, as old as linen. It was exciting to see the many native daisies, mandrakes, geraniums, and poppies—so many kinds I cannot name them all.

Whatever one thinks of the Holy Land, it is true. It is a kaleidoscope of bits and pieces. There were no marble temples or edifices built as monuments to our Lord to commemorate His stay on earth, but nature has perpetuated the beauty of His homeland. □



Bible, but there were no roses as we know them. The Hebrew word for rose suggests a bulb. It is thought today that the "Rose of Sharon" was a narcissus, *Narcissus tazetta*, or the tulip, *Tulipa montana*.

One of my first interests was to see "frankincense and myrrh" that were brought to the Christ Child at His birth. I am still unfamiliar with frankincense, *Boswellia carterii*, although I have pictures of it. The myrrh of the Bible, *Cistus incanus* subsp. *creticus* according to most authorities, I found to be my friend the rockrose.

THE NEGLECTED GUAVA

by Rosalie Garcia

TO THE AVERAGE CALIFORNIAN, who is not a native, the guava is a fruit unknown and unnoticed. The fact that the tree is evergreen, decorative, and requires almost no care does not entice him. He sees inexpensive plants in cans at the nursery, but passes them by for others more exotic or familiar. He would not think of tasting the fruit that he is compelled to notice by its demanding aroma as it lies on the ground. Even children do not try it and will let it rot on the ground.

The guava is not a native of California or Florida, where it grows best in the United States, but was brought here by the Spaniards from its native Mexico. It has gradually spread to all tropical regions of the world and is much appreciated there. Many varieties thrive in Florida where it is hot and damp and in Hawaii where growing conditions are similar. At least 4 of the 150 species of edible guavas grow in southern California and in other parts of the state where frosts are not severe. There are no great commercial orchards in California and one seldom sees the fruit for sale except in health food or specialty stores.

Guavas are of the myrtle family and kin to the eucalyptus, bottle brush, and eugenia. What is known as the common guava, *Psidium guajava*, is not so common in California gardens. One sees this delicious-smelling apple-sized yellow fruit in the Tijuana markets all summer and into winter. The jugs of yellow guava juice in our supermarkets come mostly from guavas grown in Hawaii. I have a tree that bears fruits in the fall about half the size of those one sees in Mexico and Hawaii. The cool coastal area is not a preferred habitat for this guava. In inland valleys I have seen large, sweet, and fragrant fruits. This is a small tree, about 15 feet, with fairly large evergreen, and decorative leaves. In my garden it blooms from May until August and fruits from September to December. The small hard seeds in the center of the fruit, which one cannot chew, are a hazard, but they can be avoided by cutting the fruit open and scooping



UPPER: *Psidium cattleianum* 'Strawberry Guava', two inch long red fruit.

LOWER: *Feijoa sellowiana* 'Pineapple Guava'—not a true guava. Twig to right shows grey underside of leaf. Fruit 3 inches long.

out the center. The flesh is white, pink, sometimes red, tasting a little like a pear with an acid tang. The Mexicans call this variety guayaba and eat it fresh, as juice, or as jelly, but most often they cook it slowly with sugar until it is solid. It is then cut into the brick-size slabs which one sees for sale in their markets. A slice of this with cheese or fresh fruit makes a good dessert. They often do not take the seeds out which is a detriment. They also cook this guava into a paste and dry it, making a fruit leather which is a fine snack to take along on a walk—just twist off and chew or let it dissolve in the mouth. Children love this “dulce.” In specialty shops one may find tins of guava paste imported from Puerto Rico or Costa Rica where there are commercial orchards.

The common guava in California is the strawberry guava or Cattley guava, *P. littorale* (*P. cattleianum*), which has small red to purple fruit. There is a yellow variety that seems to be more hardy and can stand a mild freeze. It is sometimes planted as a hedge around fields, or in tubs as an ornamental, or just any old place in the garden. Small, green leathery leaves and a fuzzy little blossom does not make it a showy plant, but it is always there looking attractive. When the fruits are soft and purple, they are delicious to eat and have a sweet tangy flavor. The yellow ones are more bland and have less acid. Their leaves are a paler green, and the tree will get bigger than the purple one. The purple ones are a little like some persimmons when not entirely ripe. There is a slightly puckery sensation and a kind of turpentinish flavor which may be what has “turned off” children before they have learned how to find the good ones. It is the purple one from which the famous jelly is made. For jelly the fruit should be picked before it turns deep purple and soft. The fruit should have a sort of reddish cast, but the pectin is there, if aided by some lemon juice, to turn out that amber-magenta jelly with a musky flavor that has excited gourmets for years. The purple ones can also be cooked down to make the solid slabs and leather, but the seeds, which are hard and seem more numerous than in the other guava, should be removed.

Another fruit of the same group, called pineapple guava in California, is not really a guava, but is *Feijoa sellowiana*. It seems the most amenable to hybridizing, and one sees many shapes and sizes of the fruit from round to oblong. Some are as big as a small apple and some are almost 3 inches long. The trees

grow larger than the guavas, and are very ornamental with their small green, oval leaves, glossy on top and gray underneath giving nice contrast in a landscape. The fruit, even when ripe, is green with a slightly yellow cast. When the tough skin, acid in flavor, is peeled off there is a jelly-like green pulp with a myriad of tiny seeds that one can chew. The flavor is not unlike pineapple, thus the name.

Sliced in fruit salad, the feijoa adds much, especially to bland fruits like pears and bananas. Lemon juice over it will prevent it from turning brown. Although this fruit keeps better than the guavas, it is not long before the flesh turns brown. Cutting off the blossom end and steeping the fruit in a kettle of water produces a juice that blends well with other fruit juices, and when mixed with alcoholic drinks it adds an exotic flavor. In my garden this feijoa blooms from April to July and fruits from August to December. Since it is a heavy bloomer and cannot possibly produce good fruit from every bloom, it is a bonus to pick a basket of the blossoms which are a showy red and pink. The petals, being colorful and edible, are fine in a fruit salad. The cluster of red stamens can be massed as decorations and keep well.

The guavas and feijoas all come from seeds and one often finds seedlings growing under the parent tree. They can be propagated by layering, one of the best ways, and even cuttings. When growing these trees in tubs, it is well to keep them pruned, for they have a tendency to sprawl. I allow two of my feijoas to hang over a brick wall onto a terrace—a most decorative effect. I prune them some on the garden side. A strawberry guava near the house is pretty all year; in the fall and winter with clusters of the red to purple fruits, and in spring and summer when it is intertwined with that hardy old fuchsia, ‘Nonpareil,’ which seems to drip its pink and purple blossoms like juice from fruit, keeping the illusion of eternal fruiting.

Guavas prefer sandy, loamy soil, but they thrive in almost any kind, and can do with little water, and in my garden they are pest free. What better plant can one have around? □

Refs: *Evergreen Orchards* by Wm. H. Chandler
Manual of Tropical and Subtropical Fruits
by W. Popenoe
Growing Guavas in Florida by Geo. D. Ruehle
Growing Unusual Fruit by Allan E. Simmons

Photos by Barbara Jones



symbol of christmas

by Adrienne Green

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1978

LIFE EVERLASTING is the message the Christmas wreath carries as there is no beginning and no ending in the circle. The wreath pictured further suggests life as it is composed of seed pods and cones which promise the continuation of the various species shown. Among the dried materials selected are cones of the silver tree, (*Leucadendron*) argenteum, Colorado spruce, long needle pine, Eastern larch, and mugho pine. These vary in shades of brown from delicate tan to rich bronze tones.

The wreath is made on a single 18-inch wire frame. All of the dried materials are wired and taped separately. Next they are grouped and attached to the frame with wire previously covered with floral tape. Brown floral tape is used as it matches the cones and seed pods.

Groupings of almost identical materials are repeated around the circle in order to achieve unity. A large satin bow of bronze florist water-repellent ribbon contrasts in texture and complements the darker tones of the wreath.

The handsome decoration will last indefinitely. It is the symbol of life everlasting and it is indeed a decoration everlasting.

DWARF CITRUS TREES



PART II

by George James

ALL VARIETIES OF CITRUS are available as dwarf trees. They are created by budding a scion (a piece of bark with a bud on it) from a standard size citrus tree onto the root of another citrus that will dwarf the size of the resulting plant. The fruit on such a dwarf plant will be identical with that of the parent tree in size, flavor, appearance, and time of ripening. Dwarf citrus plants are usually bushlike, developing several branches at the base instead of forming a trunk. Standard size oranges, lemons, and grapefruit are larger trees at maturity than standard size limes and tangerines. This difference will be found also in the dwarfs. When planted in the garden, where there is room for root development, dwarf citrus have the potential of growing in height and spread from 4 to 10 feet. In containers they will be smaller, depending on the root room available.

• LESS COMMON CITRUS

Dwarf citrus are evergreen, have fragrant flowers, and a crop of colorful fruit. These attributes make dwarf citrus useful as ornamentals as well as fruit bearing plants. Some varieties that are not well known are more useful as ornamentals.

The calamondin, Philippine Orange, a bush-like plant with dense foliage, bears large crops of small oranges. The ripe fruit, which is orange in color and will hang on for several months, can be used for marmalade or drinks, but is too sour to eat out of hand.

The kumquat has attractive foliage and a symmetrical habit of growth. Its white flowers have a delightful scent and are followed by many small, orange colored fruits that are very attractive. These can be preserved whole, candied, used as a garnish, or made into marmalade with a piquant flavor.

The Rangpur lime (not a true lime) has a fruit that resembles a tangerine in size and shape but is extremely sour. It can be used in drinks and for making pie. This plant withstands lower temperatures than most citrus. It is a strong grower, but is unsymmetrical in shape.

The 'Chinotto' orange is a very slow growing dwarf that will not need as large a container as will the other dwarfs. The plant is compact and nicely shaped and bears many very small fruits that are more ornamental than useful, but have a slight value for marmalade.



• CULTIVATION AND PRUNING

Plants in containers should not be cultivated as surface roots would be damaged. The soil can be mulched to improve its appearance.

Dwarf citrus need be pruned only when it is necessary to control the size or shape of the plant. Often strong shoots appear which would grow beyond the desired outline. These can be controlled by pinching-off their tips as soon as such shoots can be identified. Sprouts which start below the bud union should be cut off as close as possible. If these are allowed to grow they will crowd the grafted part until it dies.

• PORTABLE CONTAINERS

Portable containers make it possible to grow citrus in locations better suited to their needs than is a permanent spot in the garden. Plants in containers may be moved to the warmest spots, where walls hold and reflect the heat required for proper ripening of the fruit. When winter cold threatens, plants in containers can be moved under a roof or indoors to protect them. Containers, in such cases, can be mounted on platforms on casters or small wheels so they can be rolled easily from one spot to another to provide the plant with the most desirable conditions for growth and fruit bearing. □

Opposite: The Meyer lemon with a long bearing season is a popular hedge plant in southwestern California. Upper: Meyer lemon. Below: Snails love tender young lemon leaves. The well-fed culprit may be found sleeping on branches in the early morning.

Part III to follow on Deciduous Fruit Trees

Photos by Barbara Jones



A Typhoon

I HAD JUST TUCKED THE MOSQUITO NETTING firmly into place and turned out the light when the phone began to ring. The day before Christmas had been a long hard hot day. Typhoon warnings had been out since morning, followed by the carpenter with his hammer and nails to fasten down the shutters and turn our Quonset hut into a sauna; but we decorated the little Christmas tree which had come as a surprise with the last food shipment from home. We were not overly concerned by the typhoon warnings, for in the year we had been at Sangley Point we had been battened down many times, stewing in the heat, only to have typhoon Freda or Gertrude veer off and strike another spot in the Philippines.

The station, with the exception of three big well-built houses for the executive officers, was made up of Quonset huts. Ours was beside a very old cemetery, not large but quiet and beautiful, with many plumeria trees dropping their lovely creamy blossoms to make a fragrant coverlet over the old graves. Among them were many tropical trees, bread-fruit and dop-dop with its strange fringed blossom and hard, many sided nuts as big as a fist. My friend of many years, Betsy lived in one of the big houses at the far end of the graveyard.

All the thoughts of spending a Christmas in a strange land with different tongues and customs straggled through my mind before the telephone began shrilling. I struggled free of the mosquito netting and stumbled toward it in the dark. It was my friend Betsy calling: "Hallo! Get over here quick! We have just had word that we're in the eye of the storm. Bring everything you can carry in the way of food and bottled goods, it may be a siege and the electricity may go off so bring all of your candles too." Bang! went the receiver; I knew my friend was phoning everyone she could think of, as were the other houses.

I didn't need to relay any of this to my husband, Allan, who had already torn himself out of the netting and was pulling on trousers over his

pajamas. I found two big baskets. In one of them was an old pair of terry cloth beach pants which I put on and then began filling the basket with under-clothing, a shirt, and a cotton dress. The cupboards revealed several kinds of crackers and tins of smoked oysters which I put in around the edges. The refrigerator gave up chunks of cheese, a piece of ham, and other oddments which I let Allan take care of along with his collection of bottles. We had planned to go to the Club for Christmas dinner so we had no turkey to worry about, though I did have the kittens, Touch and Go, to think about.

As usual they did not come when called and I wasted precious minutes tracking them down and getting them into the basket. They violently resented this midnight assault on their privacy and reacted by struggling wildly and having to be retrieved time after time until I finally swaddled them in towels and held them down with a heavy hand. Oh, for a basket with a lid! Rain coats buttoned up, laden down with everything we could wear or carry, we were ready to fight the savage horizontal rain which slashed at us as we struggled around the corner of the hut to the car; the great dark mass which loomed ahead of us was a tree down across the entrance to the car port! We would have to take our chances crossing the cemetery in this insanity of wind and rain.

We were directed somewhat by the line of light made by the three houses beyond the cemetery. The noise was deafening and the old trees were sweeping the earth, their great boughs like giant brooms wielded by a furious hand. Branches cracked and crashed around us as we staggered toward the lights, falling to our knees over the old mounds and scraping legs and arms on the tombstones. The wind had blown off my head kerchief and wet hair blew across my face and into my mouth, but hands were occupied by squirming kittens; if one of them were to get loose in this roaring night!

After what seemed hours we were blown by

Christmas

by Josephine Gray

the thrashing punishing wind onto the veranda steps of our refuge. I crawled up on my hands and knees and let my husband drag me across the threshold to sanctuary. The kittens erupted from the basket and vanished under a couch while I sat on the floor with my back to the door to catch my breath. The room was full of people calling out "Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas," all solicitous, laughing, talking, exchanging experiences, scolding children, chasing pets. It was pandemonium, noisy—noisy but safe! Every piece of furniture was occupied, all of the beds full of small children clutching rag dolls and teddy bears.

We followed our hostess to the kitchen and put our baskets on one end of the long table where Jofilo, the house boy, was cutting sandwiches for the poker and bridge players. Our Pacita and Angelina were busy unwrapping and putting away the offerings piled on the long kitchen table. Even a roasted turkey—we would have a Christmas dinner in spite of typhoon Jeannie!

Quiet descended inside the house about two o'clock on this Christmas Eve; couples dragged cushions into corners, leaned against each other talking softly or dozing. My husband joined the poker players, Touch and Go were curled up together in someone's cap, and I sat on the floor playing a desultory game of cribbage. When the lights suddenly went out I too tried to sleep with my head on my arms.

When daylight finally came the storm had let up a little, but standing at the window in the dim light we wondered how we had ever made our way without mishap across the cemetery where great branches were down and everything was covered with debris. I have forgotten the details of that morning—the storm was raging, we were tired, the children were restless, wanting to know when they could have their Christmas.

Suddenly there was silence, absolute silence. It was as shocking and deafening as the storm. We were in the eye! Without a word and of one accord

my husband and I rushed down the veranda steps and across the obstacle course of the old graveyard to see if our hut was still standing. No trees or branches had fallen on it and inside, to our amazement, everything was exactly as we had left it, the little home-side Christmas tree still defying the heat, the strange land, and Jeannie. Only one little silver ball had fallen. We didn't linger; we knew the respite wouldn't last long so we hurried back and reached our haven just as the first gusts of the reverse wind began.

Everyone rallied to help prepare and serve a most unusual Christmas dinner. It was a cold buffet with such a diversity of food that the meal started off hilariously aided by a couple of toasts to a Merry Christmas, Santa Claus, Mme. Jeannie, the hosts, and everybody concerned down to Jofilo the house boy who had been cracking ice till the lights went out and the refrigerator stopped. Fortunately there were several alcohol lamps so we were able to have hot coffee with our dinner. Everybody had a slice of the one turkey with a wedge of cold stuffing and cranberry sauce. That called for a toast too! The rest of the menu was a hodge-bodge of things people had snatched quickly as they ran: pork and beans, spaghetti, potato salad, half a meat loaf and even a basket full of cold lumpea, those most perfect of little meat filled rolls, better even than a true Chinese spring-roll. There was plenty to eat if one had a wide range appetite, and there was companionship and good cheer. Jeannie howled and tore at the house as she unwound herself, but we were used to it now and laughing and chattering we filled our plates and sat cross legged on the floor -- let her roar!

All at once as though on signal everybody stopped talking, and there was that quiet that sometimes descends on a group of noisy people. I suspect we were all being grateful for our safety. Then someone began singing softly, "God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay." □

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Enlarged pyracantha spray showing ripe 1/4-inch diameter red fruit and blossoms

Christmas Berries

Pyracanthas and Cotoneasters

by Virginia Carlson

SEVERAL YEARS AGO a friend of mine made a Christmas wreath of pyracantha berries and hung it on her front door. A few days later she was mystified by tapping on her door, but there was never anyone there. Finally the mystery was solved; cedar waxwings were stealing the berries!

Pyracantha is versatile. It can be grown naturally as a shrub. It can also be staked very nicely for an espalier. The Lalande firethorn, *Pyracantha* 'Lalandei,' can be grown as a patio tree. If one's needs are for a small shrub with colorful berries, then grow 'Leprechaun,' which has bright red berries, or 'Red Elf,' a dwarf bush-type which probably could be used in bonsai work as well.

The color range of pyracanthas has been extended. One can choose an orange-berried type such as 'Forest Hills' or a red-orange berry such as 'Kasan,' 'Pauciflora,' or 'Wyattii.' 'Lalandei' is another selection with orange berries.

If bright red is one's fancy there is 'Santa Cruz,' a bush type, or 'Walderi,' which is more spreading. 'Water's Upright' is an upright bush with fiery red berries. Another possibility is 'Cherri Berri,' a patented cultivar.

For a compact variety which will not exceed 3 feet in height, 'Tiny Tim' is a good choice. It has practically no thorns and produces red berries.

Pyracanthas prefer full sun and well-drained soil. They are members of the rose family and are subject to fireblight, aphids, and red spider mites. Scale also attacks occasionally.

Pyracanthas should be pruned back after the berries have dropped or been consumed. They should be trimmed back to well placed side shoots. They can be used also for topiary or formal hedges, but berries must often be sacrificed when they are used in this way.

Those other members of the rose family, the cotoneasters, are also dependable for fall and winter color. Cotoneasters come in almost bewildering variety, but they have these characteristics in common: they prefer rather dry, well-drained soil in full sun or light shade. They are excellent subjects at the top of a bank or wall. Some of them will grow as ground-covers. *Cotoneaster dammeri*, or bearberry cotoneaster, will hug the ground or flow around rocks. It has white flowers and showy red berries. 'Decora,' the necklace cotoneaster, with its short branches and rather low angular main stem, is also good for ground cover or container growing.

The cranberry cotoneaster has larger fruits following pinkish flowers. It will grow about 4 feet tall and spread to even greater width. A commonly available plant is *C. divaricatus* which will grow to 6 feet, with branches arising from the center. Flowers are pink, followed by large numbers of small, elongated red fruits. It makes a nice screen or an informal hedge. Leaves are about three-fourths of an inch long and will turn orange or red in fall.

The *C. microphyllus* or rockspray types have trailing branches which root easily. They spread to 6 feet or more, but are only half as tall. Leaves are very small, dark green above and gray-hairy beneath. The fruits are rosy-red, larger than those of some of the others.

The willowleaf cotoneaster will grow up to 15 feet tall and as wide. Its leaves are much larger than most. It can be trained to a single stem and used as a small tree. It has white flowers and red berries.

Pyracanthas and cotoneasters provide color in the winter garden and berries for the birds. □

Mrs. Carlson is a National Council Judge, a Rose Judge and instructor in horticulture.

Photo by Barbara Jones

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Holiday Suggestion

Photo by Betty Mackintosh

This distinctive contemporary design was arranged by Virginia Innis for the Holiday Season. A pine branch arches with several cones from the lip of a vertical black vase. Pine needles soften the area where ruby pomegranates tumble down the side of the container. Balance and interest are achieved by adding fruit alongside the container on the simple black base. The materials used are long lasting and will add beauty for several weeks. Mrs. Innis is a National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. accredited judge and certified flower show school instructor.

SPECIAL – TO OUR READERS

Do you know that *California Garden* magazine is almost 70 years old? Did you know that, during that time, all of its pages have been filled with voluntary contributions of writers, artists, photographers, and editors? Many still are top experts in their various fields of horticulture, and all are dedicated to good gardening.

If you, our readers, realize and appreciate what this unselfish devotion has meant, can you not think of some extra friends or "would-be" gardeners, for whom a year's subscription to *California Garden* would make a welcome gift?

Send them early! Be sure they arrive on time!
That will give us *all* a Merry Christmas!

—A.M.C.

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Crassulas and echeveria make lovely Christmas gift bowls. Use the colorful red ones in a "living wreath."

—V.P.

Gardeners need the courage and perseverance of a spunky weed that grows out of a crack in the cement.

PLEASE DON'T SQUEEZE THE ORANGES!

Next time you eat an orange, note how it is put together. The bright golden peeling attracts attention, but it is also waterproof, with a soft protective lining. Inside, the separate segments are wonderfully spaced to fit the rounded ball, yet they are closely related to each other by thick, whitish cords that may be their Information Center! The thread-like filaments that bind each tiny transparent pillow of juice to its neighbor, are marvellously united. To top it off, they are all woven together with a gentle tapestry of great holding strength. If you just squeeze the orange, you have missed all the wonders of its amazing composition. If you just pour the juice out of a can—shame on you!

—A.M.C.

Poinsettia Plants



Photo by Betty Mackintosh

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THAT LOVELY POINSETTIA you received for Christmas need not be given up for lost when it starts to fade. With proper care it can continue to bloom for many Christmas seasons.

During the winter when your plant is blooming, keep the soil evenly moist by watering when the surface becomes dry. Keep it in bright, indirect light, never in full sun. When the plant starts to fade and lose its leaves in the early spring, cut it back to 4 inches, repot in fresh soil, and fertilize once a month to stimulate new growth.

By fall you should have a beautiful green plant. Now is the time to try to persuade it to bloom for the holidays. In late September or early October (approximately 10 to 12 weeks before Christmas) start giving it 14-hour nights. This is accomplished by putting it in a dark closet or covering it with a box or a heavy brown paper sack from six in the evening to eight the next morning. Do this every evening, without fail, and in three weeks the plant should start turning color. Continue the same treatment for seven or eight weeks and your poinsettia should be in full bloom—just in time for Christmas.

—S.C.

Holy Land

IN THE HOLY LAND tourists often pick the wild flowers and press them in address books or guide books. Many tourist items made of pressed wild flowers are for sale. Even these wild flowers that have survived through centuries cannot be depended on to survive man without protection. The Israeli government has now put many of them on the protected list.

—B.A.K.

The scientific names of flowers are a painful necessity; common names represent their relation to humanity.

—Candace Wheeler



The Mexican "Flower of the Holy Night" became a Poinsettia when Mr. Poinsett, a U. S. Minister to Mexico brought it north in 1828. According to legend the poinsettia leaves turned red when a poor Mexican child took this very plain plant to Church as a Christmas offering.

—B.A.K.

PARSLEY is slow to grow. Legend says the seed has to go seven to nine times to the devil for permission to grow. Only an honest man can grow parsley. Legend says it could spot liars, comfort the heart, cure baldness and increase cheerfulness. It was considered the prince of herbs and has been with us for around 2000 years. If it hasn't accomplished all that was claimed for it, perhaps it has helped!

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leafin' thru

by Russell P. MacFall

THE BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA

Arnold Small Collier Books, New York, 1975, 310 pages, paperback, \$4.95

Nothing can give a reader greater pleasure than to discover a book that more than lives up to the promise of its title. This is one, for besides including a painstaking listing and description of the birds of California, it demonstrates the breadth of the author's comprehension of his subject by a tersely worded survey of the natural history and regional geology and ecology of California.

As the author writes: "California's intricate physiography, varied climate, and diversity of habitats have in large measure molded California's uniquely rich bird life. One of the objectives of this book is to relate the geography, climate and natural environments of California to its avifauna."

ADVENTURES WITH A HAND LENS

Richard Headstrom, Illustrated by the author, Dover Publications, New York, 1976, 220 pages, paperback, \$2.50

Nature's patent office exhibits more ingenious devices for survival than man has ever dreamed of. But with a hand lens some of the clever and even outlandish ways plants and insects adapt their life processes to circumstances can be studied, and Mr. Headstrom guides and explains some 50 adventures in looking below the surface of life.

Mr. Headstrom, associate curator of the New England Museum of Natural History, has illustrated his minuscule marvels with 200 drawings.

1001 QUESTIONS ANSWERED ABOUT BIRDS

Allan D. & Helen G. Cruickshank, Dover Publications, New York, 1976, 291 pages, paperback, \$3.50

Flowers and birds have much in common. Both represent aspects of nature that human beings find attractive for their color, fragrance, and movement. In recognition of the interest in birds, the Cruickshanks have put together a question and answer book that has much of the substance of a textbook but has a more informal structure.

In considerable detail they treat the system of classifying and naming birds, the mechanics of flight, migration, the internal and external structure and sensory organs of birds, courtship, nesting, hatching, birdbanding, attracting them to the garden and even birds in mythology. Photographs by the author, Allan Cruickshank, and drawings by James MacDonald illustrate the text.

Mr. MacFall is an author, retired publisher and editor.

All books reviewed are in the library of San Diego Floral Garden Center.

SOME MYTHS AND LEGENDS ABOUT HERBS

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦



CITRUS FRUITS were known in Asia 5,000 years ago. They were brought to the new world by Columbus on his second trip. Because its habit of bearing fruits and flowers at the same time, it was worn in the middle ages by Saracenic brides to bring fruitfulness to their marriage. It is a custom continued to this day.

The words orange, lemon and lime are now known as colors, but the original names can be traced through Latin, to Arabic, and back to ancient Sanskrit.

You do know English sailors were called "Limeys" because they drank quantities of lime juice—a great source of vitamin C to prevent scurvy.

So, from Asia, by Arab traders to Palestine, to Europe via the Crusaders, to the new world by Columbus, and on to California and Florida—and to brides!

—B.A.K.

Almost all of the herbs have interesting legends connected with them and are dedicated for some unknown reason, to the planets or gods.

Sage often used as a medicine, gets its name from the Latin, *salvo*, meaning to heal. Marjoram is a native of Greece, and derives its name from the Greek *origanum*, meaning joy of the mountains. Old folk tales say that thyme was used to make the bed in the stable at Bethlehem.

Anise was used by the ancients to promote appetite, and when suspended above the bed was believed to ward off bad dreams.

Bay leaves were the aristocrats of the herbs. In the fifteenth century they were used as holiday decorations. Not only was the bay lovely as a decoration, but it would guarantee that your love would remain true.

It says in the Bible that you can pay your taxes with anise, mint, and cumin. Wonder if we could get the IRS to accept that today?

Balm is good for the brain and to chase away evil spirits and bind up wounds. Bergamot mint will ensure a happy life (if you don't live too long).

Boneset is good for digestion of elderly people.

Barage, beloved of the bees will give you the ability to make stinging replies. Catmint will make even the gentlest fierce, and camomile cures hysteria.

Mugwort is surely fine for young men who willfully mislead the ladies, and an old man's love will dry up and fly away in the presence of the false heart.

A sprig of hyssop wards off the evil eye!

—S.C.

now is the time

—A cultural Calendar of Care
from our affiliates—

compiled by PENNY BUNKER



BEGONIAS Margaret Lee

- ✓ to be extra vigilant for insects; spray for mealybugs to try to minimize their damage.
- ✓ to spray for mildew control.
- ✓ to keep planting medium moist, but not WET. (Weather can be dry during November and December.)
- ✓ to protect the potted plants from heavy rains—can wash out soil and expose roots.
- ✓ to give a light feeding several times a month—will help plants withstand any adverse conditions a little better.
- ✓ to give enough light and humidity to plants one takes into the house.
- ✓ to get some lovely winter-blooming Reiger begonias.

BONSAI Dr. Herbert Markowitz

- ✓ to consider grafting conifers.
- ✓ to trim pine tree needles.
- ✓ to remove debris from trees—brown needles on pines, leaves from deciduous trees.
- ✓ to keep deciduous trees in a cool shady area.
- ✓ to not transplant any trees.
- ✓ to cut down on watering, particularly for deciduous trees; protect from heavy rains.
- ✓ to withhold water if in freezing area.
- ✓ to withhold fertilizer.

CACTUS & SUCCULENTS Verna Pasek

- ✓ to repot any pot-bound plants.
- ✓ to watch watering—keep moisture level up if dry hot winds occur. Too much water will cause root damage on some plants while others may drop roots if kept too dry, but they will grow new roots.
- ✓ to make succulent cuttings.
- ✓ to protect tender plants in case of heavy rains or cooler weather.
- ✓ to watch for insects—cooler weather does not discourage scale and mealybug.
- ✓ to hold up on fertilizer—plants need rest this time of year.

CAMELIAS Les Baskerville

- ✓ to continue disbudding.
- ✓ to continue monthly feeding of 2-10-10 fertilizer for better and larger blooms.
- ✓ to pick up all old blooms to prevent petal blight.
- ✓ to start treating some buds with gibberellic acid for earlier, larger blooms.
- ✓ to select any new plants while in bloom.
- ✓ to maintain humidity—do not let dry out; mist only in late afternoons on dry hot days to keep from burning leaves.

DAHLIAS Abe Janzen

- ✓ to cut old stalks that have died back to about 12 inches from the ground.
- ✓ to withhold water from any left in ground to harden off; lift roots before rains start.
- ✓ to wash clumps after digging and let dry a few hours before dividing tubers. Apply soil sulphur to cut areas and store in vermiculite or other medium in a dry cool place.
- ✓ to be sure correct tags are on tubers before storing.

EPIPHYLLUMS Fern LaBorde

- ✓ to prepare plants for winter months—withhold high nitrogen fertilizer that makes growth at this time.
- ✓ to water sparingly, but do not allow to completely dry out; spraying foliage is sufficient.
- ✓ to tie or stake those long branches so they will not break when the wind and rains arrive.
- ✓ to regularly test "starts" (should be in very porous soil in 4-inch pots) so they do not dry out.
- ✓ to soak pots in a cygon solution to rid them of pesky mealybugs.
- ✓ to give an application of non-nitrogen fertilizer such as 0-30-30 or 0-10-10 at the end of November.

FERNS Ray Sodomka

- ✓ to take off "pups" from staghorn—mount them as they are starting to show growth now (the "pup" should have at least 2 fronds about 3 inches long).
- ✓ to water if it does not rain. Check plants under cover or hidden.
- ✓ to be alert for dry hot winds, do not let plants dry out.
- ✓ to plant spore and keep in warm area.
- ✓ to protect plants at night in frost areas. Cover with newspaper or old sheets or place in garage.
- ✓ to fertilize with one-quarter strength liquid or the slow release pellets and/or granules are good.
- ✓ to continue to be alert for insects—slugs and snails are active.
- ✓ to check containers to be sure planting mix is at proper level.

FUCHSIAS William Selby

- ✓ to clean up, remove all dead leaves and blossoms.
- ✓ to water enough to keep the plants from drying out.
- ✓ to do heavy pruning in mild areas or in greenhouses. Can take cuttings if good tips available.
- ✓ to allow plants to rest, reduce or stop fertilizing.
- ✓ to mulch well those plants left outside in areas where there is danger of frost; move baskets under cover for protection.
- ✓ to watch for insects, molds, fungus in warm areas.

NOW IS THE TIME

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GERANIUMS Carol Roller

- ✓ to water less often, but thoroughly.
- ✓ to continue feeding a balanced fertilizer in liquid form every 4th or 5th watering.
- ✓ to prune any plants which have not been cut back. Leave some green leaves on each stem being cut back. Note: Sept-Oct culture on regals and similar types should have read "to begin pruning, at least one leaf should remain on each stem of regals and similar types."
- ✓ to make cuttings from prunings and shelter them from extreme weather.
- ✓ to tip pinch plants which were pruned early. Remove old discolored leaves.
- ✓ to continue pest and disease control.
- ✓ to give temporary shelter from freezing if temperatures go below 28° F.

ORCHIDS Charlie Fouquette

- ✓ to repot plants that have finished blooming.
- ✓ to check for potting material breakdown.
- ✓ to check for snails. Spread proper bait.
- ✓ to clean off greenhouse glass. The days are shorter and dirt on painted glass cuts down on much-needed light.
- ✓ to continue light feeding on cyps and phals. Keep moist.
- ✓ to feed cymbidiums a 10-30-20 fertilizer.
- ✓ to stake new spikes as they emerge and develop.
- ✓ to get some of the new equitant oncidiums, so they will be blooming next spring. Grow on slabs of hopu or cork, or in small 1½- to 2-inch pots with fir bark and charcoal.
- ✓ to mist equitant oncidiums once or twice early in the day. They must be dry before nightfall.
- ✓ to prepare plants for Spring Orchid Show.

ROSES Dr. Robert Linck

- ✓ to leave blooms on the bush to promote hardening.
- ✓ to water until the winter rains appear.
- ✓ to prepare holes for planting new bushes.
- ✓ to clean tools for January pruning.

VEGETABLES George James

- ✓ to set plants of leaf and head lettuce, celery, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, and Swiss chard. (Seed germination is likely to be uncertain because of cooler weather and heavy rain.)
- ✓ to prepare soil for after-Christmas planting of roots of asparagus, artichokes, and rhubarb and plants of cane berries and strawberries.

GREEN THUMB ITEMS Sidney Greenleaf

- ✓ to plant tulips and hyacinths after Thanksgiving. Cool them in refrigerator 4 to 6 weeks before planting.
- ✓ to plant other bulbs and winter annuals anytime now for spring color.
- ✓ to cut chrysanthemum plants to within 6 to 8 inches of the ground after they finish blooming.
- ✓ to secure plants and young trees from wintry winds.
- ✓ to purchase bare-root roses, deciduous fruit trees in late December—fine Christmas gifts.
- ✓ to shape and prune holly and pyracantha when cutting berries for Christmas decorations.



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Title Insurance & Trust Co., San Diego

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